

Message Text

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R 301836Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2296
ALL OECD CAPITALS
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
USDA/WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 17075

USOECD

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY; USDA PASS M. WITCHER, OICD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR OECD
SUBJ: 18TH PLENARY MEETING OECD SCHEME FOR THE
APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR FRUITS AND
VEGETABLES

SUMMARY. DRAFT REPORT ON IMPLICATIONS OF STANDARDIZA-
TION ON MARKETING OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES ADOPTED.
SCHEME ADOPTED DRAFT RECOMMENDATION ON PALLETIZATION.
EXAMINATION OF EXPLANATORY BROCHURES NOT COMPLETED,
WILL BE ON AGENDA OF NEXT MEETING. SCHEME SUGGESTS
MEANS FOR HARMONIZATION OF CONTROL INSPECTION METHODS.
DOCUMENT ON PREPACKAGING OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
ADOPTED. PROPOSAL FOR EXPERIMENTS ON CHANGES IN QUALITY
OF TABLE GRAPES IN TRANSIT AND DISTRIBUTION HEARD.
END SUMMARY.
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1. ELECTION OF M.E. MORENO BORONDO (SPAIN) CHAIRMAN,
F.W. BETZ (US) AND M.G. VIDAILLET (FRANCE) AS VICE
CHAIRMEN.

2. AGENDA ADOPTED WITHOUT CHANGE.

3. STATEMENT BY SECRETARIAT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE SCHEME SINCE LAST MEETING:

(A) SESSION OF COMM FOR AG 17-19 MAY, EXPRESSED THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD MAKE A DECISION REQUESTING THAT A NEW U.S. TEMPORARY DEROGATION FOR FIVE YEARS BE INTRODUCED FOR PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES OF SCHEME. PRESENT DEROGATION EXPIRES 28 JULY 1978.

(B) AT THE SAME MEETING THE COMM FOR AGR WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO RECOMMEND THE APPLICATION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE SCHEME.

(C) CLAM HAS INFORMED SECRETARIAT THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO MAKE STUDY ON CITRUS FRUIT TO DETERMINE JUICE CONTENT.

(D) NORCOFEL CONGRESS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN MUNICH 18-20 SEP 1978. THEME: "THE ADJUSTMENT OF SUPPLY TO THE TREND OF DEMAND WITH REGARD TO THE QUALITY OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES". CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHEME IS ON THE PROGRAM TO TALK ON STANDARDIZATION OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

4. THE SCHEME ADOPTED DRAFT REPORT PREPARED BY SECRETARIAT REFLECTING THE SCHEME'S OPINIONS AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS ON THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SUBJECT OF "IMPLICATIONS OF STANDARDIZATION ON MARKETING OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES." THIS WAS REQUESTED BY WORKING PARTY NO. 5 (FRUIT AND VEGETABLES). U.S. HAS SUBMITTED VARIOUS POSITION PAPERS ON THIS SUBJECT DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS THUS STANDARDIZATION ON FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IS PLAYING AND WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

5. PROPOSALS FOR REVISIONS OF STANDARDS FOR CITRUS FRUIT BY U.K. ON COLORING AND ISRAEL ON PRESENTATION WAS REJECTED BY THE SCHEME. HOWEVER, U.S. DID SUPPORT U.K.'S PROPOSAL TO RELAX GREEN COLOR REQUIREMENTS FOR EXTRA, I AND II CLASSES. BRUSSEL SPROUTS STANDARDS WERE REVISED AT THE REQUEST OF THE NETHERLANDS CONCERNING TRIMMED AND UNTRIMMED SPROUTS AS TO MINIMUM DIAMETER. ISRAEL PROPOSED THAT A NEW CELERY SIZE CLASSIFICATION BE USED IN THE STANDARDS. THIS PROPOSAL WAS NOT APPROVED AND FURTHER STUDY WILL BE REQUIRED. A REVISED DRAFT OF THE EDIBLE SWEET CHESTNUT STANDARDS WAS DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH. DEFINITIONS OF "MARRON" AND "CHATAIGNE" COULD NOT BE RESOLVED. U.S. IMPORTS

CHESTNUTS, "MARRON" FROM ITALY IN LARGE VOLUME.

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ITALIAN AUTHORITIES WILL MAKE A NEW PROPOSAL ON THIS
MATTER AT THE NEXT MEETING.

6. THE SCHEME ADOPTED DRAFT RECOMMENDATION PREPARED
BY THE SECRETARIAT CONCERNING THE PALLETIZATION OF
PACKAGING FOR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. IT RECOMMENDS
COUNTRIES TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE STEPS TO PROMOTE THE
DEVELOPMENT OF PALLETIZATION BY ENCOURAGING:

- (A) DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EQUIPMENT;
- (B) EXPERIMENTS DESIGNED TO SHOW USERS THE ECON-
OMIC ADVANTAGES OF PALLETIZATION;
- (C) INSTIGATE DISTRIBUTION OF THE COSTS AND SAVINGS
RESULTING FROM THE USE OF PALLETIZATION; AND
- (D) ADOPTION OF LAND AND RAIL VEHICLES TO PERMIT
USE OF STANDARDIZED PALLETS.

THIS DRAFT DOCUMENT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL
AT ITS NEXT MEETING. U.S. HAS HAD CONSIDERABLE INPUT
IN CONNECTION WITH THIS DRAFT SINCE 1974.

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7. EXPLANATORY BROCHURES. EXAMINATION OF THE TEXT CONCERNING SWEET PEPPERS WAS NOT COMPLETED. NETHERLANDS AUTHORITIES PREPARED TEXT AND SUBMITTED A NEW "DEFINITION OF PRODUCE" PROVIDING FOR PEPPERS TO BE CLASSIFIED IN FOUR TYPES ACCORDING TO SHAPE SUCH AS: ELONGATED, POINTED, BLUNT AND ROUND. ALSO THREE COLOR CLASSIFICATIONS MAY BE SPECIFIED - GREEN, TURNING, FULL COLOR (RED, YELLOW OR WHITE). U.S. HAS NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.

8. CHOICE OF ILLUSTRATIONS FOR THE EXPLANATORY BROCHURE FOR PEACHES WAS PRESENTED BY THE FRENCH DELEGATION. APPROXIMATELY 85 SLIDES WERE PRESENTED ILLUSTRATING VARIOUS GRADE DEFECTS. ILLUSTRATIONS CONCERNING BRUISING WERE NOT SATISFACTORY AND NEW PHOTOGRAPHS WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN. U.S. WILL SUPPLY NEW PHOTOS TO THE FRENCH FOR SHOWING AT THE NEXT MEETING. TIME DID NOT PERMIT THE SHOWING OF ILLUSTRATIONS FOR GARLIC OR UN-SHELLED SWEET ALMONDS. U.S. IS RAPPORTEUR FOR THE GARLIC BROCHURE. AGENDA CARRIED OVER TO NEXT MEETING.

9. CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE ON HARMONIZATION OF CONTROL (INSPECTION) METHODS. THE SCHEME MADE SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS TO ACHIEVE GREATER HARMONIZATION SUCH AS:

(A) PRODUCTION OF BROCHURES SHOULD BE EXPANDED AND EFFORTS CONTINUED TO KEEP ALL BROCHURES UPTODATE;

(B) REGULAR MEETINGS SHOULD BE HELD OF THE HEADS OF INSPECTION SERVICES;

(C) EFFECTIVE TRAINING SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN ALL COUNTRIES TO FIT INSPECTORS' NEEDS; AND

(D) INDIVIDUAL VISITS BY CERTAIN LEVEL OF INSPECTORS

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BETWEEN COUNTRIES. OECD WOULD NOT BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

10. PREPACKAGING. IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONCLUSIONS OF THE LAST PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCHEME FINAL ADOPTION OF THE DOCUMENT "PREPACKAGING OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES" WAS COMPLETED. THIS WAS PREPARED BY A PROJECT CONSULTANT MR. HEARD. U.S. CONTRIBUTED CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION FROM ARS.

11. THE SCHEME REVIEWED DRAFT PROGRAM OUTLINE FOR EXPERIMENTS TO BE CARRIED OUT ON CHANGES IN QUALITY OF

TABLE GRAPES DURING TRANSIT AND DISTRIBUTION.
DELEGATIONS WERE ASKED TO SUPPLY RAPPORTEUR THEIR
COMMENTS BY JULY 1978 IN AS MUCH AS THIS DOCUMENT
WAS JUST SUPPLIED TO DELEGATIONS.

12. NEXT MEETING IS THE 19TH SESSION AND IS
SCHEDULED FOR 27 NOV - 1 DEC 78.
SALZMAN

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